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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Y. OKAMOTO

Serial No. 09/922,656

Group Art Unit: 1756

Filed: August 7, 2001

Examiner: N. Barreca

For: PROCESS FOR FABRICATING INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DEVICE, AND  
EXPOSING SYSTEM AND MASK INSPECTING METHOD TO BE USED IN THE  
PROCESS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed January 15, 2002,  
the Applicants request reconsideration as follows.

REMARKS

Claim 39 is the sole pending claim.

The claim was rejected under 35 USC Section 112, first  
paragraph, as being unsupported by an adequate written  
description of the invention claimed therein.

Specifically, the Examiner found no disclosure of the phase  
of the auxiliary opening region being the same as that of  
the first opening region.

In reply, the Applicants direct the Examiner to the  
specification at page 80, with reference to Fig. 6E,  
wherein an opening pattern 621a' (line 11) and opening